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May 26, 2015

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## **Sen. Rodríguez statement on U.S. Supreme Court decision to take up Texas apportionment case**

Austin - Sen. José Rodríguez released the following statement on the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to take up the case, *Evenwel v Texas*, which seeks to create state legislative districts that are unequal in size:

*Evenwel is a case where a right-wing conservative group called Project for Fair Representation is seeking to undermine minority representation in the Texas Senate by claiming that not all people living in the district should be counted. But we represent all the people of our districts, including the children, immigrants, even those who choose not to vote. This is a frivolous case and we expect that the Supreme Court will reaffirm the principles of our Democracy that all people deserve representation.*

### **Background**

Plaintiffs have brought a case in federal court to declare that the state's exclusive use of total population, rather than eligible voters, when it drew the Texas Senate maps in 2013, violates the 14th amendment's equal protection clause.

Specifically, the case presents the question of whether the "one person, one vote" principle embodied in the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause requires Texas to apportion its Senate Districts to equalize the citizen voting age population ("CVAP") or the voting electorate along-side the established mandate to equalize the total population of each district.

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*José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Senate Hispanic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.*